

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ARAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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O 071724Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8645

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DEPT PASS WM. LUERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: GULF OIL COMPANY

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE DELIVERED TO DCM BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN RAPHAEL AT NOON MAY 7. 1975:

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS BECOME AWARE OF THE AMPLY DISSEMINATED REMARKS ACCORDING TO WHICH A HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GULF OIL COMPANY HAS DECLARED THAT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CERTAIN FAVORABLE DECISIONS HIS COMPANY GAVE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY WHICH HAS THE CONFIGURATION OF A CLEARLY CRIMINAL FORM OF BRIBERY WHICH WOULD MORALLY AFFECT THE COUNTRY WHERE SUCH PRESSURE WOULD HAVE BEEN EXERCISED.

3. SINCE THE COMPANY HAS IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS IN VENEZUELA AND OUR COUNTRY HAS BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SO VAGUELY DIRECTED SUSPICION, SINCE ACCORDING TO THE ALLUSION IT INVOLVES AN OIL PRODUCING SOUTH AMERICAN NATION, OUR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE DOUBT SHOULD BE CLEARLY AND FIRMLY DISPELLED. FOR THIS REASON THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS DECIDED THROUGH MY OFFICE TO TRANSMIT TO YOU OUR DESIRES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES INTERPOSES ITS GOOD OFFICES SO THAT THE ACCUSATION MAY BE CLARIFIED

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IN THE MOST DEFINITE AND DIRECT MANNER.

4. OUR GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE THT THIS INVOLVES A REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRIVATE COMPANY AND WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE LIMITS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN THIS SENSE.

5. MY GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED A PERIOD OF 48 HOURS TO THE MENE GRANDE OIL COMPANY OF WHICH THE GULF OIL COMPANY IS THE PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDER FOR THE ACCUSATION TO BE MADE CONCRETE AND AN INDICATION BE MADE AS TO WHETHER VENEZUELA IS THE COUNTRY REFERRED TO.

6. BY DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IF THE PERIOD OF 48 HOURS ENDS WITHOUT A DECLARATION HAVING BEEN OBTAINED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MENE GRANDE OIL COMPANY IN VENEZUELA WILL BE SUSPENDED WHICH WOULD HAVE AS A CONSEQUENCE A REDUCTION IN THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM THE PUNCTUAL SUPPLY OF WHICH TO ITS TRADITIONAL MARKETS IS THE OBJECIVE OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

7. I EXPRESS TO YOU THE MOST EMPHATIC CONCERN OF OUR GOVERNMENT FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED POINTS.

8. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY...SIGNED JOHN RAPHAEL IN CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.
SHLAUDEMAN

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